Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph on page 24, lines 13-20 as follows:

Starting materials of formula II can be prepared by removal of the hydroxy group of compounds of formula III by a number of methods known to the chemist skilled in the art, e.g. by the use of triethylsilane in ~~trifluoro-acidic~~ trifluoroacetic acid and boron trifluoride diethyl etherate (see *Encyclopaedia of Reagents for Organic Synthesis*, vol 7, Paquette, ed.; John Wiley & Sons, Chichester, **1995**, 5122-5123). Starting materials of formula II, which are piperidines, may be prepared by reduction of the double bond of the corresponding tetrahydropyridines by standard hydrogenation procedures, such as e.g. catalytic hydrogenation at low pressure (< 3 atm.) in a Parr apparatus.

Please amend the paragraph on page 28, lines 22-29 as follows:

A mixture of *tert*-butyl 4-[2-(2,4-dimethylphenoxy)phenyl]-4-hydroxy-piperidine-1-carboxylate (0.5 g) and a mixture of ~~acidic~~ acetic acid and conc. hydrochloride acid (3:1) was boiled under reflux for 16 hours. The mixture was cooled, poured into alkaline water and extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined organic phase was dried ($MgSO_4$), filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (eluent: ethyl acetate/methanol/triethylamine 8:2:1) to give the target compound (11 mg, 3%). LC/MS (m/z) 280 (MH^+); RT = 2.16; purity (UV, ELSD): 85%, 97%.

Please amend the paragraph on page 29, line 29 through page 30, line 8 as follows:

A mixture of ethyl 4-[2-(2,4-dimethylphenoxy)phenyl]-4-hydroxy-piperidine-1-carboxylate (0.6 g), dichloromethane (25 mL), triethylsilane (1 mL), ~~trifluoro-acidic~~

trifluoroacetic acid (0.1 mL) and boron trifluoride diethyl etherate (0.2 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 16 hours. The resulting mixture was poured onto alkaline water and subsequently extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined organic phase was dried ($MgSO_4$), filtered and concentrated *in vacuo* (0.4 g). The residue was dissolved in a mixture of conc. hydrochloric acid and ~~acidic~~ acetic acid (1:3) (25 mL) and boiled under reflux for 16 hours. The mixture was poured onto alkaline water and subsequently extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined organic phase was dried ($MgSO_4$), filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (eluent: ethyl acetate/methanol/triethylamine 8:2:2) to give the target compound (10.6 mg, 3%). LC/MS (m/z) 282 (MH^+); RT = 2.22; purity (UV, ELSD): 67%, 83%.